

BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE

MARCH 22, 2021

A meeting of the Budget Review Committee was held Monday, March 22, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. via teleconference.

Chairman Dowd

As Chairman of the Budget Review Committee, I find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we are:

Providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video or other electronic means:

To access Zoom, please refer to the agenda or the City's website for the meeting link.

To join by phone dial: 1-929-205-6099 Meeting ID: 892 0149 3441 and Passcode: 875014

The public may also view the meeting via Channel 16.

We previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting, through public postings. Instructions have also been provided on the City of Nashua's website at www.nashuanh.gov and publicly noticed at City Hall and Nashua Public Library.

If anyone has a problem accessing the meeting via phone or Channel 16, please call 603-821-2049 and they will help you connect.

In the event the public is unable to access the meeting via the methods mentioned above, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled. Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote.

Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. When each member states their presence, please also state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-To-Know Law.

Alderman O'Brien called the roll and asked them to state the reason he or she could not attend, confirmed that they could hear the proceedings, and stated who was present with him or her.

The roll call was taken with 6 members of the Budget Review Committee present:

Alderman Richard A. Dowd, Chairman
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons, Vice Chair
Alderman Jan Schmidt
Alderman Ernest Jette
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly

Also in Attendance:

John Griffin, CFO/Comptroller
Dan Donovan, Chief Operating Officer – Nashua School District

ROLL CALL

Alderwoman Kelly

I am here, I am alone and I can hear everyone.

Alderman O'Brien

Alderman-at-Large Michael O'Brien, the Clerk is present. I can hear the proceedings and I am alone.

Alderman Wilshire

I am here, I am alone and I can hear everyone.

Alderman Jette

I am here alone and I can hear the proceedings.

Alderman Schmidt

I'm present, alone and I can hear everyone.

Alderman Clemons

I am here, I can hear everyone and I am by myself.

Chairman Dowd

I am present, I can hear everyone and I am here alone.

Alderman O'Brien

Alright, Mr. Chairman, your magnificent seven are all present and accounted for. Also in attendance is Dan Donovan, Chief Operating Officer of Nashua School District. And I have on my roll, I don't know if John Griffin is present.

Chairman Dowd

John is on, he's on.

Alderman O'Brien

OK, John Griffin, CFO, Controller for the City of Nashua.

Chairman Dowd

OK, first item of business on the Agenda is public comment. Is there anyone from the public that wishes to speak on tonight's Agenda? Seeing and hearing no one, we will move – Communications.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

COMMUNICATIONS - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-21-120

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman-at-Large David C. Tencza
Alderman Jan Schmidt
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
Alderman Skip Cleaver
Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshana Kelly
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

**RELATIVE TO THE TRANSFER OF \$755,000 FROM DEPARTMENT 194 "CONTINGENCY",
ACCOUNT 70112 "CONTINGENCY FOR EDUCATIONAL PRIORITIES" TO VARIOUS SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT ACCOUNTS**

MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE BY ROLL CALL

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Dowd

Ok the Motion on the floor is for final passage of R-21-120 and I am going to believe that Mr. Donovan would like to speak to it?

Dan Donovan, Chief Operating Officer – Nashua School District

Yes, thank you, Chair. This amount of money, the \$755,000.00 is the remainder of the \$2.2 million dollars of one kind funds that were put into contingency by the Board of Aldermen when the Fiscal Year '21 Budget was approved. We had not yet purchased Franklin Street which is one reason why we certainly didn't ask for that money. And the second item, the fiber at the elementary schools and a system like that is IT costs that we had to wait to get the e-rate funding for.

So we had previously asked for and received from the Board of Aldermen \$1,445,000.00 that was back in the fall. So this is to request the remainder of those funds to be used for the two items I just mentioned and there's a difference of \$15,000.00 that I request we put in the Legal Services Account. And the reason for that was we had planned to buy Quick Book Software and we were able to purchase that in June because we could a discount, we had a little money left over at the end of the Budget last year.

Chairman Dowd

OK, Mr. Griffin, did you want to add anything?

John Griffin, CFO

Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Donovan did a great job explaining it and again this will wrap up the amounts put away so I am in full support. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Ok are there any questions relative to this motion? Alderman Wilshire?

Alderman Wilshire

Thank you. My question, through you to Mr. Donovan, the e-rate, I know it was Mr. Farrenkopf that was doing that before. Who is doing that for you now?

Mr. Donovan

We actually have a consultant we work with to do that. You are right, it was a pet project of Mr. Farrenkopf he spent a lot of time on it. And it changes every year, so it can get quite complicated. So we have hired a consultant to help us with it.

Alderman Wilshire

As did I, it is very complicated. But kudos to you guys for getting that and using that as a resource, because it is a good resource. Thank you.

Mr. Donovan

Yes, significant savings, up to 60% sometimes.

Chairman Dowd

Yeah Mr. Farrenkopf did a great job adding fiber to if not all, many of our schools, and Central Office. That would have never happened without his due diligence in getting the money through that program. Are there any other questions relative for passage of this motion? Seeing none, could the Clerk please call the roll?

A viva voce roll call was taken which resulted as follows:

Yea: Alderman Clemons, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Jette, Alderman Wilshire
Alderman O'Brien, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Dowd 7

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES - None

TABLED IN COMMITTEE

R-20-016

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderwoman Linda Harriott-Gathright
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.

AMENDING THE PURPOSE OF A FISCAL YEAR 2020 UNLIKE ESCROW FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

(tabled at 4-20-20 mtg)

Chairman Dowd

I don't believe we are taking anything from the table. The next item is, again, is public comment? Is there anyone from the public that would wish to address the Budget Committee? Seeing and hearing no one, we will move on. Remarks by Aldermen?

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Alderwoman Kelly

Did we not have General Discussion?

Alderman O'Brien

I was just going to say Mr. Chairman, if I may through you to Mr. Griffin, too bad about the Bruins with the COVID.

Chairman Dowd

I had a piece of paper covering up the General Discussion. So any General Discussions?

Alderwoman Kelly

I had one actually.

Chairman Dowd

Alderwoman Kelly.

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you. I just actually wanted to ask, I know that we are potentially waiting for some Federal Dollars, I was wondering when you think the Budget Season schedule will be put together because this is a little bit late for us to be starting correct?

Chairman Dowd

The Mayor wants to start in May, yes that is later than normal. Donna is working with the calendar, moving the chess pieces as we speak.

Alderwoman Kelly

Could I follow-up?

Chairman Dowd

Sure.

Alderwoman Kelly

I guess we are in General Discussion. Do you think that will crunch it into fewer nights versus when we have started in March?

Chairman Dowd

Within reason, yes.

Alderwoman Kelly

Ok that was my question.

Chairman Dowd

The schedule will go out to everybody on the Budget Committee in advance of approval so that any conflicts or whatever can be worked out as best as possible.

Chairwoman Kelly

Ok perfect. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Alright any other general comments? Alderman Wilshire?

Alderman Wilshire

I don't know if you know, Mr. Chairman, but how many of our schools that do not have fiber? Are there any that don't have fiber?

Chairman Dowd

Mr. Donovan, are you aware?

Mr. Donovan

They all have fiber except for Franklin Street obviously which we did an RFP just recently for that.

Chairman Dowd

I was 99.5% sure we had it at all schools but didn't want to go out on that limb too far.

Alderman Wilshire

Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

But that has helped immensely on communications. The other thing I just wanted to mention to everybody, I don't know if you missed the conversation early on, but that big hole in the woods over at the Pennichuck School, that is on Pennichuck land and it is the new solar farm being built. We have not started although I wasn't over there today, we haven't started the project at Pennichcuk Middle School yet but we are going to be starting any day; fencing will be going up. And the first thing we are going to do is build a new parking lot for teachers, since when we put a shovel in the ground we will be taking their parking away. So we need them to have a place to park.

At the Joint Special this Thursday, there will be a number of things to approve to get that project kicked off. Also I wanted to mention that the next Special Budget Meeting is going to be on April 8, not the 6th, on April 6th Director Marchant is having a very important meeting that she'd like all the Aldermen to attend on the Master Plan. She will present to us on the Public Hearing on the topic for the April 8th meeting. Alright, any other comments? No, OK.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

REMARKS BY THE ALDERMEN - None

POSSIBLE NON-PUBLIC SESSION - None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN TO ADJOURN BY ROLL CALL

A viva voce roll call was taken which resulted as follows:

Yea: Alderman Clemons, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Jette, Alderman Wilshire
Alderman O'Brien, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Dowd 7

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was declared closed at 7:13 p.m.

Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Committee Clerk